

Subject: Re: Chelmsford

Date: Mon, 09 Feb 2004 19:33:17 +0000

From: Donald Kenrick <dken@globalnet.co.uk>

To: <ustiben.5@ntlworld.com>

I would forget about burning of caravans as arson but press for compensation

I can handle a homelessness review - it would need to be on behalf of someone who was offered Epsom or Bromley and they need to be contactable to sign things perhaps in the future -and if the lawyer thinks it is a good idea we could choose someone (not who was sent to the hostel as they did not have useable caravans by then presumably) and this will help to stop Chelmsford again and other councils. Continuing the fight will discourage Chelmsford from doing the same again and also neighbouring councils in Essex such as Epping hear what is going on

The housing review could later be linked with what CLP is doing about the same issue - land for homeless Gypsies

>

Mrs Sarah Gardner
Homeless Investigations
Civic Centre
Duke Street
Chemsford
Essex CM1 1JE

Mrs Roseann Sheridan
C/O Grattan Puxon
1 John Harper Street
Colchester CO1 1RP

12 February 2004

RE: REGISTRATION AS HOMELESS/APPLICATION FOR ACCOMMODATION

Dear Mrs Gardener,

My partner Patrick Purcell and I, with our children, registered as Homeless at your office on 23 January, as we were facing eviction from the Meadowlands Caravan Park on 26 January, due to lack of planning permission. Our Planning Application is still with Chelmsford Borough Council.

Your Council's agents, Constant & Co., did serious damage to our caravan, a Lord Munster (valued at £17,000) in the course of taking onto Cranham Road. I had no vehicle capable of towing it. Bryan Lecoche, in charge of the operation, agreed in consultation with the Council (Mrs Christine Lyons?), either 1) to take the caravan to site in Epsom (accompanied by Mr Cliff Codona, chairman of the National Travellers Action Group), or 2) to a storage facility (a mobile home and other caravans were subsequently taken to such a facility at South Mimms).

Neither one of these agreed arrangements were carried out by Mr Lecoche. Instead, my caravan was looted and items of value, including Crown Derby and Waterford glass, were stolen from it – and it was then burned.

(2)

In the meantime, we had been allocated temporary accommodation at Silverwoods motel, in Thorrington, near Colchester. We found this completely unsuitable. We found needles and believe drug addicts were there. Our friend Mrs Kathy Buckland saw someone injecting themselves. But we stuck it out, as we had nowhere else to go. After just two nights, we were told we would have to leave as our papers had not been sorted out. We were allowed a third night and then the threat was repeated. Dr Kenrick and the Gypsy Welfare Committee offered to pay £300 for three more nights, which saved us. Still because of the conditions we left and moved into a caravan with friends. We've been living crammed up, eight of us in the one caravan on another caravan park which is also without planning permission. So we are in the same insecure position. They say we are living "illegally" whatever that means. I do not want to say where this is for fear we'll be evicted from there and this caravan park, owned by good Travelling, will be destroyed like Meadowlands was in another ethnic-cleansing operation.

Requests have been made in writing to Chelmsford Borough Police Station to investigate the looting and thefts and the burning of our caravan. But so far they have refused to start any investigation.

I have not yet had any reply to our original application for accommodation, when we said that as Travellers we do not want houses. We want to live together in our family group on a caravan park. We cannot bear to live in houses. This is against our way of life.

I believe my case of homelessness has not been dealt with properly and I therefore wish this to be fully reviewed in the light of all the above circumstances.

Roseann Sheridan

TRANS-EUROPEAN ROMA FEDERATION

Affiliated to International Romani Union
Consultative status with OSCE, UNO

1 John Harper Street
Colchester CO1 1RP
Phone 01206 523528
Email: ustiben.4@ntlworld.com

17 February 2004-02-17

Mrs Sarah Gardner
Homeless Investigations
Chelmsford Borough Council

RE: MEADOWLANDS: SITUATION OF HOMELESS

Dear Mrs Gardner,

Enclosed are letters from Mrs Kathleen Buckland and Mrs Roseann Sheridan (signed by me on her behalf, a copy signed by her can be furnished later) requesting that

- a) your reply to their homeless applications be sent to the above address,
- b) that a review in to the way their homelessness has been dealt with should be carried out.

Mrs Janet Beauchamp, who helped with the original applications of all those who came to your offices on 23 January, said at the time that she would furnish copies of those applications. Please now forward copies to us.

Copies of this correspondence forms part of the Report which is being prepared for UN Human Rights officers in Geneva and for the Commission for Racial Equality. Copies may also be supplied to Thomas Smith & Puxon and Budd Martin Burrett, solicitors and to investigating officers assigned by Essex Police.

Yours sincerely,

Grattan Puxon
General Secretary
TERF

Strategic Housing Services
Head of Strategic Housing Services

Mrs Paulene Pennifold BSc (Hons) MCIH
MRTPI

Mr. Purcell and Miss Sheridan,
Address unknown



Civic Centre Duke Street
Chelmsford Essex CM1 1JE
DX 123305 Chelmsford 7
Telephone: 01245 606606
Facsimile: 01245 606988

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Please ask for: Jayne Hinton

Direct Line: 01245 606459

Email address:

**IF YOU NEED HELP WITH THIS LETTER PLEASE RING
ME ON MY DIRECT LINE**

2 March 2004

Dear Mr. Purcell and Miss Sheridan,

**Re: Application for Assistance under the Housing Act 1996 Part VII
Section 184 (3) Notification of Decision**

This Council has reached a decision on your homeless person's application made to this Authority on 16 February 2004. The Authority's decision on the information available to it is as follows:

1. I am satisfied that you are eligible for assistance under the terms of the above Act and Immigration Appeals Act 1996.
2. I am satisfied that you are homeless
3. I am satisfied that you fall into a category of priority need under the terms of the above Act as you have dependent children.
4. I am satisfied that you did not become homeless intentionally.
5. I am satisfied that you have a local connection with the borough.

The Council therefore has a statutory duty to assist you under the Housing Act 1996. You will be aware that you were advised at interview and afterwards of vacancies on two authorised sites one at Swanley, Kent and another at Epsom in Surrey. We have investigated whether there are any vacancies at authorised sites managed by Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Council but there are none at present. I would therefore ask you to contact me immediately to discuss your housing options with this council.

.../cont'd

You have the right to request a review of certain elements of this decision under Section 202 of the Housing Act 1996 Part VII. Should you wish to request a review this should be made in writing to the Head of Strategic Housing Services within 21 days of the date of this letter, in accordance with the relevant code of guidance on homelessness, further details of which are available on request. You are also entitled to request a review as to the suitability of the accommodation you are offered to discharge the Council's duty under Section 193 (2).

This letter will be kept at the Council's Strategic Housing reception for collection for a period not exceeding 28 days.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hinton', written over a horizontal line.

Jayne Hinton
Homeless Investigation Officer

Mrs Sarah Gardener
Housing Needs Manager
Chelmsford Borough Council

Roseann Sheridan
C/O Grattan Puxon
1 John Harper Street
Colchester C01 1RP

5 March 2004-03-05

RE: APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE HOUSING ACT

Dear Mrs Gardiner

In response to your letter of the 2 March, I have asked Mr Grattan Puxon to write this letter to you, as I cannot read and write. I have signed my initials at the end.

This letter is an authorisation for you to send to Mr Puxon, at the above address, your response to my application, and to respond to any queries that Mr Puxon may have regarding this.

I am pleased to tell you that my caravan has been recovered although not yet returned to us. The damage was not as serious as first feared. It was the sight on television of a caravan burning, and the ashes on the roadside, that made us anxious that our caravan had been burned too. We were very distressed.

Thank you for your attention to our housing application and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Roseann Sheridan

Strategic Housing Services
Head of Strategic Housing Services
Mrs Paulene Pennifold BSc (Hons) MCIH
MRTPI

Miss R. Sheridan,
C/O 1 John Harper Street,
Colchester,
Essex.
CO1 1RP.



Civic Centre Duke Street
Chelmsford Essex CM1 1JE
DX 123305 Chelmsford 7
Telephone: 01245 606606
Facsimile: 01245 606988

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Please ask for: Jayne Hinton

Direct Line: 01245 606459

Email address: j.hinton@chelmsfordbc.gov.uk

31 March 2004

Dear Miss Sheridan,

Re: Application for assistance with accommodation in Chelmsford

I am writing with regard to your Housing Register application form that was received by this Authority on 22 March 2004.

I note from this form that Patrick Purcell has not been included. In view of the fact that the homeless application for your family was made by him on 16 January 2004 I need to clarify the current situation.

I would be grateful if you could contact me as soon as possible in order to clarify your circumstances with regard to Mr. Purcell, where you are all staying and a contact telephone number or address for him.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hinton", written over a large, stylized capital letter "J" that serves as a signature flourish.

Jayne Hinton
Homeless Investigation Officer

Strategic Housing Services
Head of Strategic Housing Services
Mrs Paulene Pennifold BSc (Hons) MCIH
MRTPI

Mr P. Purcell,
C/O Gratton Puxon,
1 John Harper Street,
Colcehster,
Essex.
CO1 1RP.



Civic Centre Duke Street
Chelmsford Essex CM1 1JE
DX 123305 Chelmsford 7
Telephone: 01245 606606
Facsimile: 01245 606988

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Please ask for: Jayne Hinton

Direct Line: 01245 606459

Email address: j.hinton@chelmsfordbc.gov.uk

14 April 2004

Dear Mr. Purcell,

Re: Application for accommodation in Chelmsford

I am writing with regard to the homeless application made by you on 16 January 2004 and our subsequent letter of 2 March confirming our decision under the Housing Act 1996 Part VII (Section 184).

A Housing Register application has now been received in the sole name of Roseanne Sheridan and includes your 3 children.

I would therefore be grateful if you could contact me in order to advise of your current situation with regard to accommodation and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hinton', written over a horizontal line.

Jayne Hinton
Homeless Investigation Officer